

Hist. 1301.602 -- U.S. HISTORY to 1865

Fall Semester 2025

Online

Instructor: Mr. Chad DeMars

E-Mail: cdemars@tamusa.edu

All emails will be answered within two business days.

Office Hours: By Appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will cover U.S. history from before the arrival of the first colonists through the Civil War. Themes to be covered include: colonialism and imperialism, the Atlantic World, trade and economics, politics, diplomacy and warfare, westward expansion, and slavery. We will focus on historical interpretation and critical thinking, rather than merely memorizing names and dates, as so many history classes require you to do.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Create a thesis argument through the use of historical evidence.
2. Analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources.
3. Analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on this period of United States history.
4. Develop analytical writing skills

COURSE READINGS

Textbook:

The American Yawp

Online only: <http://www.americanyawp.com/index.html>

The American Yawp Reader

Online only: <http://www.americanyawp.com/reader.html> These readings will be assigned with chapters.

Addition supplemental materials will be posted to Blackboard

EXAMS

There will be two exams: one midterm and one final. The exams are given in a format that allow you to demonstrate your understanding of historical topics and to provide your own interpretations of historical

events and themes. It is more important that you be able to exhibit critical thinking skills than to regurgitate a laundry list of names and dates.

Prior to each exam, you will be provided with a study guide.

Exams will not be cumulative, BUT the questions will be based on lecture, the textbook, and the supplementary readings. You will not be able to succeed on the exam by only coming to class and not reading (or vice versa).

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

You will be required to write two essays over the supplemental readings. The first of these writing assignments must be at least 250 words. The second essay must be at least 900 words in length. Both must be double-spaced, with standard 1-inch margins and 12-point font. Cite your sources in footnotes. I will provide a prompt for each of the essays, so you will be using the supplementary readings to respond to a specific historical question. We will discuss these assignments and the citation guidelines in greater detail during class.

QUIZZES

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There will be 150 Quiz points offered over the course of the semester.

GRADING SCALE

Exams—400 points (One Midterm worth 200 points and a final exam worth 200 points)

Written Essays: 300 points (1 short essay worth 100 points and 1 longer essay worth 200 points)

Quizzes: 150 points

Short Answer Discussion- 150 Points

TOTAL POINTS: 1000

A= 1000-900; B = 899-800; C =799-700; D = 699-600; F = 599 and below.

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POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Attendance: Class attendance is mandatory. You will not be able to succeed in this course if you habitually miss class. While this course is online, you will need to keep up with your work each week.

Extra Credit: I do not offer extra credit.

Blackboard: This course has a Blackboard site, which is where all lectures, weekly assignments including reading, and your grades will be posted. I will also use Blackboard for course announcements throughout the semester. I do not post notes per say but will post the PowerPoints for the course in addition to the recorded lectures.

Make-Up Exams/Quizzes: Make-up exams/quizzes are only allowed for emergencies such as debilitating illness, a death in the immediate family, and religious or school functions. In any case, you must provide documentation of your absence in order to be allowed a make-up exam.

Late Paper Policy: I do not accept late papers. All assignments must be turned in by the deadline. Online at the provided Turnitin link on blackboard. If you have a valid excuse or make a compelling case, I do grant extensions on due dates so please reach out ahead of time if you are having trouble with a deadline in the course.

Classroom Etiquette: Please be respectful in the course. Our discussion sections will often require you to respond to other students and as such it will be important to treat others in a collegial manner.

Communication: E-mail me regarding questions or concerns that you might have. I do my best to respond within one day during the week. You may also schedule an appointment to speak with me via zoom.

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Academic Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, Disability Support Services is located in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210. You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit us <https://www.tamusa.edu/Disability-SupportServices/index.html> or email us at dss@tamusa.edu. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

Academic Learning Center: The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the *Tools* section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202.

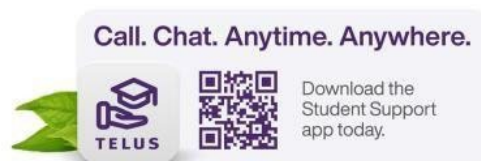
Counseling/Mental Health Resources: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are

experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information on SCC services visit tamusa.edu/studentcounseling

Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 (after-hours select option '2').

Additionally, the TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to including support for in the moment distress, an anonymous peer to peer support network, mental health screenings, podcasts, and articles to improve your mental wellbeing.



Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>.

More information about Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found here: <https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/emergency-management/>.

Download the SafeZone App (<https://safezoneapp.com/>) for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. NonEmergency (210) 784-1900.

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance: According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center: The Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center supports graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students

composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. Students can schedule appointments through JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on “Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center” to make your appointment. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at <https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/>.

Meeting Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to submit a CARE referral (<https://www.tamusa.edu/universitypolicies/StudentRights-and-Responsibilities/file-a-report.html>) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to visit the Office of Military Affairs for any question involving federal or state VA Education Benefits. Visit the Patriots’ Casa building, room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military.va@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or course work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

The Six-Drop Rule: Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student’s GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as “F” grades and will impact the student’s GPA.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equal opportunity, and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or

stalking, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment, sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@tamusa.edu, 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

Pregnant/Parenting Students: Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide such reasonable accommodations to pregnant students as would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition that are related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status (titleix@tamusa.edu; 210-784-2061; CAB 439K).

Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities: The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

Students' Rights

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and pregnancy/parenting or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.

3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

Students' Responsibilities

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty, and administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct, on our website, and University Catalog, and to comply with them, as well as with federal, state, and local laws.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide a safe environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notifications.

We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation, or disability. Conduct that infringes on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the Student Code of Conduct (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/documents/Student-Handbook-2022-23.pdf>) or visit the resources available in the OSRR website (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/academic-integrity.html>).

AI and Academic Dishonesty

History 1301 and Professor DeMars assumes that all work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups (if the project is a group project) Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignment and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

Important Dates:

August 25	Monday	First class day
September 1	Monday	Labor Day Holiday - No classes
September 2	Tuesday	Last day to register
September 10	Wednesday	Census Date
September 11	Thursday	Drop for non-payment
October 6-October 17	Monday-Friday	Midterm grading period
November 14	Friday	Last day to drop with an automatic grade of "W"
November 25	Tuesday	Last day to withdraw from the university
November 26	Wednesday	Study day - No classes
November 27-November 29	Thursday-Saturday	Thanksgiving Holiday - No classes
December 4	Thursday	Last day of scheduled classes for weekday classes
December 5	Friday	Study day - No classes
December 6-December 12	Saturday-Friday	Final examinations

The complete academic calendar is available online:

<https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/academic-calendar/current-year/fall-2025.html>

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

This Schedule is tentative. Any changes will be announced on Blackboard and reflected in due dates.

Week 1 8/25-8-31 Class Introduction & Syllabus, Pre-Columbian People

Week 2 9/1-9/7 **9/1 Labor Day** European Exploration

Week 3 9/8-9/14 England & Her Colonies, The British Empire in America

Week 4 9/15-9/21 Colonial Slavery, The Colonies Come of Age

Week 5 9/22-9/28 Colonial Wars, From Good Englishmen to Independence , Main Idea Paper Due 9/28 11:59 PM

Week 6 9/29-10/The American Revolution, Confederation to Constitution.

Week 7 10/6-10/12 The Federalist Era, Jeffersonian America

Week 8 10/13- 10/19 Midterm Exam, Jacksonian America

Week 9 10/20-10/26 The Second Great Awakening, Abolitionist & Reform.

Week 10 10/27-11/2 Questioning Morality in the 19th Century, Manifest Destiny

Week 11 11/3-11/9 The Politics of Slavery and Gold Response paper due 11/9 @ 11:59 PM

Week 12 11/10-11/16 The Gathering Storm, Secession/Slavery Documents Lecture

Week 13 11/17-11/23 Secession and Civil War

Week 14 11/24-11/30 **Short week because Thanksgiving** Civil War Continued

Week 15 12/1-12/5 Civil War Conclusion

Week 16 12/6-12/12 Final Exams